New exploration by ONGC

*19. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after gas was found in Krishna Godavari Basin by Reliance, ONGC has also found gas in another exploration block at some other location;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the exploration from the new source would start?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Subsequent to the announcement of the Krishna Godavari basin gas finds by the consortium of Reliance Industries Limited and Niko Resources Limited in October 2002, ONGC has found leads at 4 new locations. Of these two leads, *viz.* Laiplinggaon in the upper Assam basin and Kavitam in the Krishna Godavari basin, are on land. The other two leads, *viz.* B-22-5 in Mumbai of shore and GS-KW in the Krishna Godavari basin, are offshore.

ONGC had been awarded 24 exploration blocks by itself or in consortium with other Oil PSUs under the first and second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Of these 4 are on land, 11 are shallow off shore and 9 are deep water off shore blocks. Exploration activities have commenced in all these blocks in accordance with the committed work programme as per the respective Production Sharing Contracts.

After the announcement of gas finds by the consortium of Reliance Industries Limited and Niko Resources Limited, in October 2002, ONGC has been awarded 13 exploration blocks, *i.e.* 8 on-land, 3 shallow off-shore and 2 deepwater offshore blocks, under the third round of NELP, either by itself or in consortium partnership with other Oil PSUs. Production Sharing Contracts for these blocks have recently been signed on 4th February, 2003.